

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the final office action dated August 4, 2008, in which the Examiner objected to the drawings; rejected claims 1-19 as indefinite; objected to claims 7 and 19, rejected claims 1-3, 7-13 and 16-18 as anticipated by US 5141063 to Quesenbury; and rejected claims 1, 4-7, 9, 17 and 19 as obvious in view of by US 2857141 to Carpenter and US 6397958 to Charles et al.

Applicants have amended the claims and respectfully submit that the claims are patentable for the following reasons.

Objection to the drawings

A replacement sheet is included herewith, in which exemplary control means have been shown in phantom on Figure 1. The specification has been amended to include reference numerals for the components of the control means.

No new matter has been added, as each component shown in the drawing was described in the text of the original specification.

Rejection of the claims as indefinite

Claims 1 and 9 have each been amended to replace the recitation of cement with a recitation of the selected material so that the language within each claim is consistent.

Objection of the claims as being improperly dependent

Applicants submit that the afore-mentioned amendments to claims 1 and 9 render this objection moot, as claims 7 and 19 now properly narrow the scope of claims 1 and 19, respectively.

Rejection of the claims over prior art

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 14 and the intervening claims. Claim 9 is therefore now in condition for allowance, along with the claims that depend from it. Claim 14 has been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 9. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance, along with the claims that depend from it.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present Response places the case in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request that the present amendments be entered and the case allowed. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this case, he is respectfully encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (713) 241-1041.

Respectfully submitted,

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